

## Message Text

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14  
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FOL REPEAT HONG KONG 8314 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK JAKARTA  
MANILA KUALA LUMPUR SEOUL TAIPEI TOKYO JULY 15, 1976

QUOTE

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FOR EA AND EB

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: BEXP, XC  
SUBJECT: APCAC MEETING IN JAKARTA

1. SUMMARY: THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HONG KONG  
IS SEEKING ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL  
IN THE PREPARATION OF POSITION PAPERS ON MAJOR FOREIGN  
ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES TO BE AIRED AT THE OCTOBER MEETING  
OF THE AISAN PAFIFIC COUNCIL OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS (APCAC) IN  
JAKARTA. END SUMMARY

2. AMCHAM HONG KONG, AND ALSO APPARENTLY SOME OTHER AMCHAM'S  
IN EA, ARE ALREADY HARD AT WORK ON THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER  
MEETING OF APCAC IN JAKARTA. IN A ROUGH DIVISION OF RESPONS-  
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SIBILITIES IN PREPARATION OF AGENDA TOPICS, AMCHAM HONG

KONG HAS TAKEN REPSOBILITY FOR THE PREPARTATION OF PAPERS ON SEVERAL KEY ISSUES. THE SUBJECTS ARE "TRADE WITH VIETNAM" MULTINATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT", "THE AMERICAN BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH ASEAN", AND " EFFECT ON TAIWAN OF US RECOGNITION OF THE PRC."

3. ON "TRADE WITH VIETNAM" AMCHAM HONG KONG IS EXPECTED TO TAKE THE LEAD. MR. LOUIS SAUBOLLE, BANK OF AMERICA, WILL BE PREPARING THE POSITION PAPER. MR. SAUBOLLE, IS THE CHAIRMAN OF AMCHAM'S NEW VIETNAM COMMERCIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHICH ALREADY HAS 50 BUSINESS MEMBERS DRAWN FROM VARIOUS US FIRMS IN HONG KONG. SAUBOLLE HAS NOT INDICATED WHAT POSITION THE CHAMBER WILL TAKE OTHER THAN GENERALLY PUSHING FOR ABOLITION OF US TRADE RESTRICTIONS. AMCHAM HOPES THAT THE JAKARTA MEETING, COMING AS IT DOESN BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, CAN BE USED IN AN EFFORT TO PRESS THE CANDIDATES ON THIS ISSUE. SINCE THE CONGEN WILL BE CONSULTING WITH SAUBOLLE IN PREPARATION OF HIS PAPER, IT WILL BE HELPFUL IF THE DEPARMTNET WILL KEEP US FULLY INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS RELATIVE TO THE VIETNAM TRADE ISSUE.

4. "MULTINATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT" IS BOUND TO BE ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING TOPICS AT THE APCAC MEETING. APCAC WILL TAKE THE VIEW THAT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN OUT OF THE FIRING LINE ABROAD ARE IN A KEY POSITION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON A PRACTICAL CODE OF CONDUCT. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO MAKE APPRO- PRIATE SUGGESTIONS, THE BUSINESSMEN NEED TO KNOW WHAT THE USG POSITION IS. THE BUSINESSMEN HERE HAVE BEEN GETTING ONLY AN IRREGULAR FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM COPORATE HEAD- QUARTERS ON THIS ISSUE, SO THE CHAMBER HAS TURNED TO THE CONGEN WITH A REQUEST THAT WE KEEP THEM INFORMED ON OFFICIAL ATTITUDES. AT THIS TIME, WE URGENTLY NEED BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON THE OECD CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANY MATERIAL WHICH CAN BE RELEASED BY THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING ACTIVITIES AND VIEWS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSNATIONAL ENTERPRISES. WE NEED THIS INFORMATION BOTH FOR OURSELVES AND TO PASS TO THE CHAMBER.

5. THE "AMERICAN BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH ASEAN" IS SOME- THING THAT INTRIGUES THE MEMBER CHAMBERS OF APCAC BECAUSE OF THEIR INTREST IN STAYING CLOSE TO THE RICH EMERGING MARKETS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SEA. AMCHAM HONG KONG IS INVLED BECAUSE OF THE REGIONAL CHARACTER OF MAY OF ITS BUSINESS MEMBERS. THE CHAMBER RECOG- NIZES THAT THE US MUST KEEP ITS DISTANCE FROM ASEAN, SO THEY ARE PROBING FOR A WAY TO ESTABLISH AN APCAC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ASSOCIATION. THEY ARE DOING SO BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT THE ASEAN GOVERMENTS ARE INTRESTED IN PROMOTING AMERICAN INVESTMENT AND THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC PRESENCE IN THEIR COUNTRIES. AMCHAM HONG KONG IS PREPARING A PAPER ON THIS AGENDA ITEM AND

WOULD APPRECIATE ANY UNCLASSIFIED OR DECLASSIFIED MATERIAL  
THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE ON THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF ASEAN.

6. "EFFECT ON TAIWAN OF US RECOGNITION OF THE PRC" IS A  
SUBJECT WHICH AMCHAM HONG KONG WANTS TO TAKE HOLD BECAUSE  
THEY DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THIS ISSUE STRICTLY TO WHAT THEY  
EXPECT WOULD BE OBSTRUCTIONIST POSITIONS OF AMCHAM  
TAIPEI. BASIC ISSUES WHICH AMCHAM HONG KONG SEES INVOLVED  
ARE SUCH THINGS AS OPIC GUARANTEES, EXIM BANK GUARANTEES,  
INTELSAT RELATIONSHIP, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT RIGHTS.  
MR. WILLIAM ROSENTHAL OF BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL IS WORKING  
ON THIS PAPER. BASICALLY, WE BELIEVE HIS ATTITUDE WILL BE  
"HOW TO DO IT" RAHTER THAN " WHY IT CAN'T BE DONE". IN VIEW  
OF THE DELICACY OF THE WHOLE TAIWAN QUESTION, WE DID NOT  
RESPOND TO ROSENTHAL'S REQUEST FOR SOME SORT OF GUIDANCE ON  
THESE ISSUES. HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT  
THS REQUEST WILL ARISE AGAIN AND APCAC SEEMS BOUND TO ADDRESS  
THESE ISSUES WITH OR WITHOUT ADVICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

7. WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE IN ADVANCE WHETHER THE FORTHCOMING  
APCAC MEETING WILL HAVE ANY MORE REAL IMPORTANCE THAT PAST  
APCAC MEETINGS. THE FACT REMAINS THAT APCAC CAN AND PROBABLY  
WILL BECOME A MORE POSITIVE FORUM FOR THE AGGREGATION OF US  
BUSINESS INTRESTS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF US BUSINESS PURPOSES  
IN THE AISA-PACIFIC AREA. FUTHERMORE, MEMBER CHAMBERS ARE  
LOOKING TO THE POSTS AND THE DEPARTMENT FOR SUPPORT IN THIER  
PREPARATION FOR THE JAKARTA MEETING. SINCE THE BUSINESSMEN  
ARE DETERMINED TO BECOME INVOLVED IN FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY,  
IT WOULD BE WISE TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AND HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE.  
CROSS

UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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